1 1. (currently amended) A method for protecting, tracking, and retrieving data on a computer

2 system, said method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) connecting a database to an existing operating system and to existing file management

4 software on said computer system;

5 (b) selecting at least one file to be protected from a primary storage device in said computer

6 system;

7 (c) copying said at least one file from said primary storage device to a secondary storage device

8 in said computer system by activating said existing file management software to perform said

9 copying, wherein said removable storage device contains at least one removable storage

10 medium wherein said at least one removable storage medium has is assigned a unique

11 identifier, comprising the steps of

12 (c1) creating a globally unique identifier (GUID),

13 (c2) converting said GUID into a character string, and

14 (c3) assigning said character string as said unique identifier;

15 (d) creating at least one database record when copying said at least one file from said primary

16 storage device to said secondary storage device, wherein said at least one database record

17 contains tracking information about said at least one file and about said copying;

18 (e) storing said at least one database record in said database; and

19 (f) displaying said at least one database record, through a user interface for said existing file

20 management software on a screen display in a graphics display device of said computer

21 system, wherein said at least one database record is displayed graphically as a virtual file

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22   representing said at least one file.

1   2.   (canceled without prejudice)

1   3.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 2̶1 wherein step (c2) further comprises the step

2   of:

3   (c2a)   converting said GUID into a character string by converting each hexadecimal digit

4   of said GUID into a single character of said character string.

1   4.   (currently amended)   A system for protecting, tracking, and retrieving data on a computer

2   system, said system comprising:

3   a database, stored on a primary storage device of said computer system, wherein said database is

4   connected to an existing operating system of said computer system and connected to existing

5   file management software of said computer system;

6   a secondary storage device, connected to said computer system, for receiving a copy of at least one

7   file from said primary storage device for protection and retrieval thereof, wherein said

8   secondary storage device further comprises at least one removable storage medium, mounted

9   in said secondary storage device, for receiving said copy of said at least one file from said

10   primary storage device and further wherein each said at least one removable storage medium

11   h̶a̶s̶ is assigned a̶n̶ a unique identifier comprised of a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID);

12   data protection software, operating within a memory of said computer system, wherein said data

13   protection software is connected to said existing file management software, connected to said

3

14   existing operating system, and connected to said database; and

15   wherein, at least one database record, comprised of tracking information about said at least one file

16   copied to said secondary storage device, is created and stored in said database, and further

17   wherein said at least one database record appears as a virtual file representing said at least

18   one file within a user interface of said existing file management software displayed in a

19   screen display of a graphics display device attached to said computer system.

1   5.   (canceled without prejudice).

1   6.   (currently amended)   The system of claim ~~5~~ 4 wherein said unique ~~name~~ identifier further

2   comprises a character for each hexadecimal digit within said globally unique identifier.

1   7.   (original)   A computer system method for creating a unique name for a removable storage

2   medium comprising the steps of:

3   (a)   creating a globally unique identifier (GUID);

4   (b)   converting said GUID into a character string; and

5   (c)   assigning said character string as said unique name for said removable storage

6   medium.

1   8.   (original)   The method of claim 7 wherein step (b) further comprises the step of:

2   (b1)   converting said GUID into a character string by converting each hexadecimal digit

3   of said GUID into a single character of said character string.